



## Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board

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**To:** Senate President Pro Tem. Peter Shumlin  
Speaker Shap Smith  
Sen. Susan Bartlett  
Rep. Martha Heath  
**CC:** Rep. Bill Frank  
**From:** Theodore Marcy, MD, MPH, Vice Chair, Tobacco Evaluation & Review Board  
**Re:** **Tobacco Trust Fund Bridge Funding**  
**Date:** May 15, 2009

The Vermont Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board recommends to the Legislature and Administration leadership that a one-time supplemental "bridge funding" appropriation of up to \$1.5 million be made from the Tobacco Trust Fund for FY 2010.

This one-time stop-gap appropriation is necessary to prevent the potentially disastrous loss of trained and experienced tobacco control personnel in communities throughout the state. In response to the 50% funding reduction for the Health Department's comprehensive tobacco control program, VDH will, over the next several months, conduct a comprehensive review of the contracts through which it has funded community health coalitions and local hospital programs, among others. The one-time Tobacco Trust Fund supplement would allow VDH to bridge a funding gap for these important local partners during the months of July through November 2009, while it restructures its smoking prevention and cessation programs to cut costs under the reduced 2010 budget.

This bridge funding will enable programs to retain essential personnel and related resources while tobacco control partner contracts are reviewed and revised. The specific amount necessary to fund this gap will be recommended by the Health Department.